

FEDERAL AID SECTION 7 EVALUATION FORM

PHASE I: COMPLETED BY STATE

For federal assistance programs administered by the USFWS (Division of Federal Aid.)

State: IllinoisAgency: Department of Natural ResourcesProgram: Wildlife Restoration

Grant Proposal, Agreement, or Amendment

Title and Number: Beaver Dam Acquisition Project - W-69-L

Grant Period: _____

I. Species/Critical Habitat: List species or critical habitat that occur within the action area¹.

The Indiana bat has been found approximately 1.5 miles from Beaver Dam State Park, located in Macoupin County, Illinois. Beaver Dam State Park lies within the historic range of the eastern massasauga. There is no designated or proposed critical within or near the park.

II. Project Description: Describe project or, if referencing other documents (e.g. GP), prepare an executive summary.

The proposed action is a change in the federal project boundary that would exclude approximately 10.0 acres of land that was purchased with federal assistance from the boundary and replace that acreage with approximately 10.0 acres of land currently owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. All land uses included under the federal project will be permitted on the "replacement" acreage. The land exchange is needed to allow for the construction of a waste treatment facility at the park. Construction of the waste treatment facility will include the removal of trees necessary to provide access to the construction site and to allow the construction of a lagoon of adequate size to accommodate the needs for waste treatment.

III. State Review & Recommendation: Identify the effects of the proposed project on species/critical habitat occurring within the action area. Check (X) all applicable categories and list of species associated with each recommendation. (Note: Multiple recommendations on one form is acceptable.)

- ___ a) "No Species/Critical Habitat Present" This recommendation is appropriate when no listed/proposed/candidate species or designated/proposed critical habitat occur within the action area (no species list is required).

¹ Action Area = all areas potentially affected (directly or indirectly) by the proposed action (50 CFR 402.02)

b) *"No Effect"* This recommendation is appropriate when the proposed project will not directly or indirectly affect (negatively or beneficially) individuals of listed/proposed/candidate species or designated/proposed critical habitat of such species. List species applicable to this recommendation (or attach list):

X c) *"Not Likely to Adversely Affect"* This recommendation is appropriate when the proposed action is not likely to adversely impact individuals of listed/proposed/candidate species or designated/proposed critical habitat of such species. List species applicable to this recommendation and complete section IV (or attach list):

d) *"Likely to Adversely Affect"* This recommendation is appropriate when the proposed action is likely to adversely impact individuals of listed/proposed/candidate species or designated/proposed critical habitat of such species. List species applicable to this recommendation and complete section IV (or attach list):

IV. Documentation of State Recommendation: For each *"Not Likely to Adversely Affect"* and *"Likely to Adversely Affect"* recommendation, attach an explanation of such finding for all applicable species or critical habitat. Documentation should include a discussion of each of the following: (1) species status - population trends, distribution in action area, (2) habitat status - critical or noncritical, species use such as breeding migrating, feeding in action area, and (3) impacts of action - how the proposed action will affect species/critical habitat (consider direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts).

Four alternatives have been evaluated for completion of this project. Each is considered separately below.

Alternative #1 (preferred alternative): Construct a treatment lagoon in an open corn field, west of an abandoned roadway in Beaver Dam State Park.

Most of the site that would be used under this alternative is currently a crop field. A few trees would be removed to allow construction of an access road. Before construction begins, the project site will be examined by Department personnel with extensive research and management experience with Indiana bats. If any trees having exfoliating bark or cavities suitable for use by Indiana bats are slated for removal, removal of those trees will be allowed only between October 1 and March 30. Trees of over 20-cm diameter at breast height will be removed only if inspection of those trees reveals no evidence of use as a maternity site (e.g., guano accumulation, staining). This will minimize any potential adverse effect on Indiana bats that may use Beaver Dam State Park for foraging and/or maternity areas.

As proposed, this treatment facility will have no point discharge of effluent. Treated wastewater will be sprayed onto adjacent crop fields, thus avoiding discharge or run-off to any nearby waterway.

Addition of the "replacement" acres to the park's existing hunting programs will have no effect on Indiana bats that may use that portion of the park.

Alternative #2: Pump all waste to the City of Carlinville's Wastewater Treatment Plant. This alternative would include the construction of a force main and four lift stations to transport waste to the City of Carlinville, approximately 6.8 miles from the entrance to

Beaver Dam State Park. Preparation of a pipeline corridor would likely involve the removal of trees between the park and Carlinville. If tree removal was necessary, restrictions as described under Alternative #1 would be implemented in order to minimize the potential for adverse effects on Indiana bats.

Alternative #3: Purchase 10 acres north of Beaver Dam State Park and construct a new sewage treatment facility similar to Alternative #1.

Under this alternative, 10 acres of crop land would be purchased from an adjacent landowner and used as the site for construction of a waste treatment facility.

Approximately one-half mile of force main and a lift station would be required to make use of this site.

As in Alternative #1, a small number of trees may need to be removed. Restrictions as described under Alternative #1 would be implemented in order to minimize the potential for adverse effects on Indiana bats.

Alternative #4: No Action

The No Action alternative would make no changes in current land use or operations of Beaver Dam State Park. There would be no adverse effects on the Indiana bat. This alternative would, however, result in the continued discharge of treated waste that is not in compliance with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency standards.

None of the alternatives described above would be expected to have any effect on the eastern massasauga. There have been no reports of massasaugas in the vicinity of Beaver Dam State Park for at least 30 years.

State Signature: *(signature indicates impacts on all federally listed species within the applicable State have been considered and documented)*

State Endangered Species Coordinator:

Date

3/15/03

State Federal Aid Coordinator:

Date

3/15/03

beaverdam03.wpd

Concur that proposed Action is not likely to adversely affect the Indiana bat or any other federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species.

Jay & Cella
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03/14/03